

**The Scottish Parliament
Cross Party Group on Palestine**

14 November 2018

Minutes

MSPs present: Sandra White, Ross Greer and John Finnie

MSP apologies: Claudia Beamish, James Dornan and Pauline McNeill

MSP staff: Amanda Gordon (SW), Nadia El-Nakla (SR) and Marilyn Herbert (SR)

16 CPG members present: A Gordon, C Cooper, A Shanley, M Shanley, K Bett, M Spooner, R Spooner, W Malik, M Calder, M Al Qaisy, A Dean, M Elhamus, V McGraw, P Chetwynd, E El-Bahnassay, K Khalil

1. Minutes of previous meeting – approved
2. SW introduced Muhanad al-Qaisy from The Olive Tree Campaign who gave a very informative overview of the aims and objectives of the organisation, describing the work they do and the people involved internationally.

Mark Calder from Embrace the Middle East also spoke about the Olive Tree Campaign as one of their main partners.

There was a discussion about the CPG or individuals getting involved with the project through the purchase of olive trees.

3. Working Group feedback
 - JF provided feedback to CPG members on the Hate Crime Working Group which was discussed
 - RG gave a report on the Education Working Group and Scottish Government developments which led to a group discussion on the way forward with input from VM
4. Future Meetings
 - Group approved Stephen MacLeod from Lord Provost's Glasgow Twinning Programmes with Bethlehem; Health Project presenting to the group at the next meeting in February.
 - Group requested N El-N seek further information regarding an exhibition request from BAYT

- K Bett led discussion on the CPG event in March on Child Prisoners outlining running order
- Jane Dallas Ross request discussed with no real issues but should request more information on motives and outline of presentation.

5. AOCB

Group participated in 1 minute silence for those killed.

6. The next meeting of the CPG will take place on Tuesday 19 February at 5.30pm in CR5.